Burwood Girls High School P & C Minutes of 20th June 2012

Present: as per attendance book

Meeting started at 7.30pm

Minutes of the previous meetings to be adopted viewed on school website. Belinda Pearson moved motion to adopt the minutes. Seconded by Nic.
Nic moved and Christine seconded adoption of April minutes. Both sets of minutes adopted.

Principal’s Report:

Note recent letter in the Sydney Morning Herald by a parent from BGHS supportive of the school and its high level of non-English speaking students, which reflect the area’s community.

3 areas: NAPLAN testing: Our teachers actually look at NAPLAN results to see where deficiencies are to focus on for teaching – it gives info on areas for the school to address. There were only 4 students absent from the whole of the test this year, and the students were diligent and well behaved while doing the test. Results for Years 7 and 9 will not be available until September.

School Council Meeting: Regional Director, Phil Lambert attended our last Council meeting re road access to Wangal Park through school and, and advice will be provided to the Minister. The recommendation is to remove the roadway.

School events:
- Athletics Carnival 24 May – students were all engaged and involved.
- Prefects’ Afternoon Tea 25 May – invited students from other schools (private and public) was a wonderful success.
- Field Study Day – all sorts of activities, Indonesian dance, sushi making, mask making as well as Year 9 session on how to use laptops effectively.
- Reconciliation Week – Indigenous Infusion talk was well received by students.
- Phil Lambert Regional Director visit – dance and drama groups performed for him.
- Eufemia Macri, one of 8 students in the region nominated for a VET award for hospitality.
- Strings group played at a Dept. of Education occasion at CLIC.
- Mary Teague came to talk about opportunities for Year 12 students.
- Principals Conference – good opportunities to liaise with other principals (James Ruse, Newtown PAHS and Sydney) as well as hear from keynote speakers.
- Reports for Years 8/10 sent out to students and parents – No year advisor comment this year. Huge problems checking for inconsistencies. Some problems with parent/teacher night online booking system for 21 June. Edval assisting in managing issues. The booking problem still remains but the school will do their best to overcome these issues.
- Overseas Excursions: Samoa this school holidays; New York April 2013, France/Italy April 2013. India trip Sept/Oct 2013 in development. The school tries to be inclusive for as many students as possible re excursions.

Issues for Semester 2:
- Development of Wangal Park
- SRE classes in year 7. The classes are going to continue for Year 7 next year. However the school intends to do an evaluation, and intends not to extend to Year 8. The teacher Liling Tan, has managed to engage the students well.
- Chaplaincy program. The school has a pair of youth workers that come in on Mondays and they have been an asset to the school. Wesley Mission has run that program, and the school has supported the continuation of this program for the next 3 years and been successful in obtaining funding. The school never wanted a chaplain, but does find youth workers useful.
- LaST (STLA). Support Teacher Learning Assistance (currently Judy Elkington). The school has been told that the STLA would be increased to 1.1 from 0.4, which would enable Judy to become fulltime in this position (instead of doing other duties). However, the school has been told that there will be another 0.6 position (3 days at BGHS and 2 days at Leichhardt Primary) Learning & Support Teacher (LaST) is the new name for these positions. The new teacher at BGHS in this position will be Andrew Pring. The funding overall has been cut across the state. The criteria for learning support has now changed.
- Home stay families? Are we interested in canvassing for home stay families for short-term visits by overseas students.
- Proud schools program. The anti-homophobia funding – covered at last meeting in detail. The Minister’s PA came along to the Proud Schools event at BGHS.
- Inner West Learning Community application was successful and we are looking at improving transition with Croydon PS and Summer Hill PS.

Future events:
- Year 7 vaccinations, parent/teacher night years 8/10, blue and gold assembly. ICB tour to south coast; Samoa trip 1 July, first day of term 3 is 17 July, 18 July is Year 8 STARR day. P & C Meeting (teaching and learning in English).

Tonight’s Talk: Assessment and Subject Selection – Kathy Lye

Subject Selection Overview:
- Year 8 – choose one language for Year 8 (Indonesian, Chinese, French or Italian) and either Music or Visual Art. Students bring home to information in Term 4 and the forms to choose their electives. There is no info night.
- Year 9 – 3 electives chosen. The mandatory subjects are English, maths, science, geography, history and PDHPE. History and geography done in alternate terms. There is a subject info night (this year in August). Large range of elective subjects – five subject choices nominated from 1 to 5. The most popular are commerce, photographic & digital media, visual arts and visual design, textiles technology. There is now a program that the student choices are put through. If not enough students choose an elective subject, it
won’t be run; if a class is full, students may be assigned to another one of their choices (particularly if there is a time conflict also). The program assigns the students to electives based on their choices.

- Year 11 – choose a minimum of 12 units. Option night is on 19th July – student booklets distributed prior to the option night. Every year 10 student is interviewed by school staff team. The subject selection process is distributed via email week 3 and by week 4 of Term 3 year 10 should know their subjects for Year 11. Maths is not mandatory. Again, some electives are dropped due to lack of interest, however some small classes for electives are offered. New students – up to 30 – are taken into Year 11 when possible (ie. If school isn’t full). TAFE or VET aren’t included in the elective selection process, so that the minimum 12 units are school subjects. The option night is important to begin discussion of elective choices for Year 11 – students need to think about what they’d like to do for future careers in choosing their electives. TVET people come along to the options night as well as subject staff.

- Year 12 – may study a minimum of 10 units, some may choose to do TVET subjects and up to 12 units.

- Year 11 options book is under Year 11 on the school website.

Formal Assessment Guidelines: year 10, 11 and 12 are provided to students.

- Year 10 is considered a “practice” year to get students used to the formal assessment process.

- 2 weeks notice of formal task given in writing. The proforma should be used and needs to include outcomes to be assessed, weighting, marking criteria and a full description of task.

- Disability provisions.

- Students must sign that they have received the assessment task.

- Teacher’s responsibility to check absentee sheet the day before and check early leave passes. Students will be marked 0 unless they have medical certificates for absences.

- On the day of the assessment task, students must sign either that they have done the task or have handed it in.

- Alert head teachers if student is away – students must present doctor’s certificate and hand in task or make time when to do presentation.

- All doctor’s certificates must be given to Ms Longman (MS Lye) to keep track of individual students who may try to manipulate the system. The doctor’s certificate must state the reason for inability to attend and/or complete the task.

- There is a process to deal with students who have not handed in assessment task.

Apologies: Elaine and the P & C treasurer were unable to attend tonight.

Business Arising:

- No treasurer’s report due to treasurer’s absence.

- School blazer: The uniform shop is open next Tuesday, the initial 30 blazers ordered are available, and prefects will be encouraged to purchase them.
- Correspondence: P & C Federation annual conference in July – if anyone wants to attend speak to Alice Magoffin.

- Possible Teachers’ strike on Wednesday next week, however dance trials will still go ahead.

- School will look into participating in a spelling bee in August (Karyn O’Brien investigating).

Meeting finished at 8.45pm